This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   **Cancelled**

2.   **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

a)   generating at least one entity trust list containing at least one characteristic of at least two of the entities, a level of trust being gauged by the at least one characteristic;

b)   generating at least one transactional trust list containing at least one parameter relative to an exchange between at least two of the entities through at least one degree of separation between the entities, the at least one parameter comprising a proxy parameter, the proxy parameter being indicative of an action that a trusted party can perform on behalf of a trusting party; and

c)   creating at least one receiving component that obtains information from the at least one entity trust list and the at least one transactional trust list in order to provide a framework for at least two of the entities to establish relationships between one another.

3.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the plurality of interconnected entities correspond to nodes on a network.

4.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the network is a wide area network.

5.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the network is the Internet.

6.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the entities are business entities, and wherein the system provides a framework for the business entities to discover, validate and establish business relationships over the network.

7.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the at least two entities have capabilities of sharing information about other entities, each of the other entities being at least one of a business partner and a known contact.

8.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the entity trust list contains, for a respective entity, at least one of: names of known entities and identifying characteristics thereof; previous transactions between the respective entity and other entities; historical transactions between the respective entity and other entities; quality ratings of the historical transactions; overall rating of other entities; and map of entity relationships.

9.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the map of entity relationships includes at least information that identifies entities and which other entities they know, and information about how relationships were formed between such entities.

10.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the transactional trust list has proxy trust parameters and activity trust parameters.

11.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the proxy trust parameters include at least: an ability of a respective entity to forward requests to other trusted entities; ability to add new entities as trusted entities; ability to communicate opinions about a predetermined entity to other entities; and ability to dynamically create proxy parameters that are specified by any two cooperating entities.

12.   **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein activity trust parameters include at least one of: types of transactions a respective entity can handle; activity trust levels; and past activity with a predetermined entity.

13.   **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

   a)   generating an entity trust list containing at least one characteristic of at least two of the entities, a level of trust being gauged by the at least one characteristic;

   b)   generating a transactional trust list containing at least one parameter relative to an exchange between at least two of the entities through at least one degree of separation between the entities, the at least one parameter comprising a proxy parameter,

the proxy parameter being indicative of an action that a trusted party can perform on behalf of a trusting party;

c)   generating a capability domain and activity trust level data base for each of the at least two entities, the data base having a plurality of levels of trust and a plurality of entity roles, the capability domain and activity trust data base comprising a plurality of entries, each entry being indexed by an entity role and a level of trust, each said entry being indicative of a corresponding business process; and

d)   creating at least one receiving component that obtains information from the entity trust list and the transactional trust list in order to provide a framework for at least two of the entities to establish relationships between one another.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein each respective role in the plurality of roles defines a respective function that one entity fulfills to another entity.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein each respective level of trust in the plurality of levels of trust defines a respective degree of trust between one entity and another entity.

16.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein a respective business process of a plurality of business processes is associated with each combination of a respective role of the plurality of roles and a respective trust level of the plurality of trust levels.

17-39. Cancelled

40.   (Previously Presented) The transitive trust network system of claim 13, wherein the corresponding business process is selected from a group consisting of a design process, a source process, a plan process, a buy process, a make process, a sell process, a fulfill process, and a service process.

41.   (Previously Presented) The transitive trust network system of claim 13, wherein the entity trust list includes an overall trust score between two entities, the overall trust score

being determined from an associated plurality of entries of the capability domain and activity trust level data base.

44.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

creating a trust component that stores a trust level for each directly interconnected entity and at least one corresponding valuation criterion for determining the trust level and that obtains an associated trust level of a sought entity through an interconnected intermediate entity if the sought entity is not directly interconnected to the selected entity, the trust component comprising:

an entity trust portion that includes a first data structure, the first data structure storing a distinguishing characteristic of each said directly interconnected entity, a degree of trust being indicative of the distinguishing characteristic; and

a transactional trust portion that includes a second data structure, the second data structure including a plurality of transactional parameters, the plurality of transactional parameters being indicative of criteria for conducting the new business relationship, the plurality of transactional parameters comprising:

a proxy parameter that is indicative of an activity, the activity being performed by a trusted party on behalf of a trusting party; and

a plurality of activity-trust parameters being indexed by an activity trust domain and a capability domain, the activity trust domain being indicative of an activity trust level, the capability domain being indicative of an activity process level, each activity-trust parameter being indicative of an associated business process; and

creating a transactional component that provides peer-to-peer capability for sharing information with the other interconnected entity, the transactional component utilizing information from the trust component.

45.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the at least one parameter includes another proxy trust parameter that supports an ability of a respective entity to forward requests to other trusted entities.

46. 45.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the at least one parameter includes another proxy trust parameter that supports an ability to add new entities as trusted entities.

re-numbered